

## Message Text

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02917 161354 Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 DPW-01 ADP-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W

----- 080998

O R 161145 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3618

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FORT MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02917 161354 Z

ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS

ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2917

CINCPAC FOJPPOLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR  
DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT- APRIL 16

REF: VIENTIANE 2888

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY- WHILE GROUND AND AIR ACTION IN  
LAOS DURING TWO- DAY PERIOD 14-15 APRIL WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT  
(I. E., 2 MAJOR AND 14 MINOR INCIDENTS), MILITARY SITUATION  
IN THA VIANG REMAINS SERIOUS. FRIENDLY TROOPS MOVED SOUTH  
AND SOUTHWEST IN AFTERMATH OF MAJOR ENEMY ASSAULT 12-13  
APRIL AND ARE TRYING TO REGROUP. FULL EXTENT OF LOSSES  
NOT YET KNOWN. ELSEWHERE, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SHARP  
FIGHTING IN AREA NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE IN MR IV,  
AND SOME MINOR ACTIVITY IN AREA 15 KM SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST  
OF PAKSE. RLAF FLEW 10- T-28 AND 6 AC-47 SORTIES AGAINST  
TROOPS IN CONTACT, IT ALSO PROVIDED FAC COMNRAGE FOR  
DIPLOMATIC CONVOY WHICH TRAVELED FROM VIENTIANE TO LUANG  
PRABANG 14 APRIL. POLITICAL- AMBASSADOR MET 16 APRIL  
WITH KING IN LUANG PRABANG. RADIO HANOI CONTINUES TO  
REPORT, IN DETAIL, VISIT OF LPF DEL TO HANOI. PRIMIN TOLD  
LAO PRESSE APRIL 16 THAT HE WARNED LPF REP MARCH 30 THAT  
CONTINUED NVA ATTACKS WOULD FORCE HIM TO REQUEST US AIR SUPPORT.  
END SUMMARY.

#### 1. SECTION I- CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: NO AIR OR GROUND ACTION REPORTED 14-15 APRIL.  
RLAF FAC' S, 14 APRIL, FLEW AIR COVERAGE FOR DIPLOMATIC  
CONVOY TRAVELING ROAD TO LUANG PRABANG.

B. MR II: THERE WERE SIX MINOR AND NO MAJOR INCIDENTS  
DURING TWO- DAY PERIOD. FRIENDLY FORCES CONTINUED TO  
WITHDRAW SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF THA VIANG ( UG 3015) 14-15  
APRIL. STILL NO ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF FRIENDLIES KILLED,  
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 02917 161354 Z

WOUNDED AND MISSING, ALTHOUGH 3 00 EN MAY BE MISSING AND  
EQUIPMENT LOSSES APPEAR TO BE VERY HIGH. RETREATING  
TROOPS WERE AMBUSHED 14 APRIL BY UNKNOWN- SIZE ENEMY FORCE  
AS FRIENDLIES TRIED TO CROSS NAM GNIAP RIVER AT UG 3033( 1 KIA  
AND 3 WIA). DELAYED REPORT DESCRIBES MINOR INCIDENT IN  
SOUTHEAST XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE 12 APRIL, WHEN FRIENDLY  
PATROL CLASHES WITH UNKNOWN- SIZE ENEMY FORCE 12 KM EAST/  
SOUTHEAST OF MUONG MOC (2 ENEMY KIA). ON NIGHT 13 APRIL,  
80 FRIENDLIES AMBUSHED 10 ENEMY IN AREA WEST OF MUONG

SOUTI AND 21 KM NORTHEAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN ROAD JUNCTION, KILLING 3( NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES). DURING EARLY MORNING 14 APRIL, FRIENDLY UNITS ENGAGED IN TWO SEPARATE MINOR INCIDENTS, CLASHING BRIEFLY WITH ENEMY 7 KM AND 12 KM NORTHEAST OF PADOUNG ( NO KNOWN CASUALTIES). ON APRIL 15, WITHDRAWING GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE AMBUSHED SOME 20 KM NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG ( NO KNOWN CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW SEVEN T-28 SORTIES 14 APRIL, ALL IN SUPPORT TROOPS IN CONTACT IN THA VIAFI AREA. NO SORTIES WERE FLO) 15 APRIL.

C. MR P

PIC NO SIGNIFICANT AIR OR GROUND ACTION REPORTED DURING 48- HOUR PERIOD.

D. MR IV: THERE WERE TWO MAJOR AND SEVEN MINOR INCIDENTS DURING TWO- DAY PERIOD. ON MORNING 13 APRIL, FRIENDLY COMPANY CLASHES FOR 20 MINUTES WITH ESTIMATED TWO NVA COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR FIRE 32 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE ( ONE WIA, 3 MIA; 3 NVA KIA AND 3 WIA). ANOTHER MAJOR INCIDENT WAS REGISTERED IN SAME GENERAL AREA DURING EVENING 13 APRIL ( XC 129416), WHERE FRIENDLY COMPANY WAS ATTACKED BY THREE NVA COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR FIRE (2 KIA, 8 MIA). AFTERNOON APRIL 13, FRIENDLY UNIT CLASHED BRIEFLY WITH NVA COMPANY 22 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE; IN LATE AFTERNOONE, FRIENDLY UNITS LOCATED 19 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE WERE ATTACKED BY ENEMY COMPANY( NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES). IN TWO MINOR INCIDENTS MORNING 14 APRIL, 40 KM SOUTHWEST AND 52 KM SOUTH OF PAKSE, ONE FRIENDLY SOLDIER WAS KILLED IN FIRST INCIDENT WHILE DETAILS OF SECOND YET TO BE RECEIVED. DURING EVENING 14 APRIL, ENEMY COMPANY ATTACKED FRIENDLY COMPANY AT BAN PHAPHO, APPROX 52 KM SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE ( CASUALTIES UNKNOWN). ON MORNING 15 APRIL, 10 NVA TROOPS CLASHED WITH FRIENDLIES 34 KM NORTHEAST V KHONG SEDONE. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENTI 02917 161354 Z

ENEMY BROKE CONTACT, WITH ESTIMATED 2 WIA ( NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW 3 T-28 SORTIES 14 APRIL IN AREA SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE AND ONE AC-47 SORTIES IN AREA NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, ALL IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT. RLAF, 15 APRIL, FLEW THREE AC-47 SORTIES AGAINST ENEMY CONCENTRATION IN AREA SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE.

E. MR V: DURING LATE AFTERNOON 14 APRIL, ENEMY COMPANY LAUNCHED MINOR ATTACK AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITION 9 KM

SOUTHWEST OF BAN DONE ( CASUALTIES UNKNOWN). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES 14 APRIL, ALTHOUGH FAC PROVIDED ESCORT COVERAGE FOR DIPLOMATIC CONVOY PROCEEDING TO LUANG PRABANG. TWO AC-47 SORTIES WERE FLOW 15 APRIL IN BAN DONE AREA.

## 2. SECTION II- POLITICAL SITUATION

A. AMBASSADOR GODLEY AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTY SPENT APRIL

15-16 IN LUANG PRABANG, ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS- AS WELL AS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT ( LPF)- CELEBRATING THE LAO NEW YEAR. THE AMBASSADOR MET PRIVATELY WITH THE KING DURING THE MORNING OF 16 APRIL AND RETURNED THIS AFTERNOON.

B. RADIO HANOI CARRIES SEVERAL ACCOUNTS OF LAO NEW YEAR VISIT TO HANOI OF THE SIX- MAN LPF DELEGATION, LED BY NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN, STANDING MEMBER OF LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DELEGATION REPORTEDLY MET WITH DRV OFFICIALS TON DUC THANG, TRUONG CHINH, PHAM VAN DONG AND LE DUAN DURING THEIR STAY.

C. IN A STATEMENT TO LAO PRESSE 16 APRIL, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA SAID THAT NVA ATTACKS IN BOUAM LONG AND THA VIANG SECTORS WERE MADE IN SPITE OF WARNING HE GAVE LPF REP PHOUN SIPRASEUTH 30 MARCH TO EFFECT THAT IF NVA LAUNCHED SUCH ATTACKS, HE WOULD BE OBLIGATED TO REQUEST U. S. AIR SUPPORT.  
GODLEY

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**To:** STATE  
DIA  
CIA INFO BANGKOK  
JAKARTA  
MOSCOW  
Y PARIS  
PHNOM PENH

SAIGON  
OTTAWA  
WARSAW  
NEW DELHI  
UDORN  
JEC PARIS  
USIA A  
SECDEF  
USDAO SAIGON  
DIRNSA FORT MEADE MD  
CINCPAC  
CINCUSARPAC HAWAII  
COMUSMACTHAI  
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI  
CDR USSAG NKP  
CDR AF F ADVON UDORN  
DODSPECREP BANGKOK  
DODSPECREP NKP  
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK  
ACCS KORAT  
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